



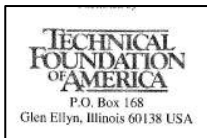
CONTACT: Mike Fitzgerald, Indiana Department of Education

Telephone: 317-232-6990  
Email: mfitzger@doe.state.in.us

Thursday, January 5, 2006

***Best Practices in Technology Education: State Supervisor Leadership  
Recognized by the Technical Foundation of America***

**Description of Best Practice:**



Across the country, technology educators often complain about the lack of support and leadership at the state level. Many personnel in the state departments of education seem to gravitate into the position of state supervisor or program specialist due to seniority, political influence, or simply because “no one else would do it.” What technology education teachers want and need from personnel in their state’s department of education rarely matches what they receive in terms of support, resources, communication, and local assistance.

At least one state supervisor (Michael Fitzgerald) has quickly gained statewide acclaim for being very proactive for technology education. All technology educators in Indiana get an email from the state supervisor (called the Specialist for Technology Education) on practically a daily basis. One of Michael’s first tasks after taking office was to identify and locate all the technology education teachers and get their key contact information. School mailing labels, phone lists, and WWW databases were purged and an accurate, up-to-date list was established. Hard work resulted in determining that 1139 teachers were currently teaching at least one technology education class in an Indiana public school or at the university level.

The electronic links that were established became the basis for a communication network in Indiana. A state department WWW site was established for the dissemination of curriculum materials, links to important DOE information, news of grants and research opportunities, conference and workshop information, etc. A message board (listserv) allowed teachers to conduct a public forum on educational issues, classroom activities, state association initiatives, and related topics. The result is that all teachers in Indiana are now involved in technology education activities.

Michael’s excellence doesn’t stop with his communication efforts. He is constantly visiting public school teachers, working with the teacher preparation programs at three universities, organizing and participating in workshops, and supporting activities of the Technology Educators of Indiana (the state professional association).



As affairs evolve at the Indiana Department of Education, Michael has kept technology education in the mix of many initiatives. This includes discussions about content standards and academic “crosswalks,” licensing guidelines, and other emerging issues. He has truly gained respect and appreciation among the educators in Indiana. While Michael’s performance may not be unique, he serves as a model state supervisor of technology education.

Key contact person:

Mike Fitzgerald

Technology Education Specialist

Indiana Department of Education

Room 229, State House

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

Voice: 317-232-6990

Email: [mfitzger@doe.state.in.us](mailto:mfitzger@doe.state.in.us)

Web: <http://www.doe.state.in.us/octe/technologyed/welcome.html>

Best Practices in Technology Education:

A Collection of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Best Practices in Technology Education

is available for educational purposes at:

<http://teched.vt.edu/ctte/>